

Rolf Achilles, Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows

**“Mucha’s Four Seasons in Chicago”**

In 1907, Czech artist Alphonse Mucha lectured at the Art Institute of Chicago and the 3-Arts Club, attended public functions, made many friends, organized a studio in Chicago, and accepted commissions. Was the famous Tiffany Four Seasons Window one of those commissions?

Thomas Bahde, Chicago

**“Re-Imagining Black Migration and Black Communities in the Midwest: Springfield, Illinois, 1850-1880”**

Using Springfield as a case study, the author revises the incomplete picture of black migration and communities in the Midwest prior to the Great Migration. The study reveals the larger scale of black migration, especially between 1865 and 1870, and the steady growth and diversification of the community during the period 1850 to 1880.

Trudy E. Bell, Lakewood, OH

**“The Great Easter Flood of 1913 in Illinois”**

The flood of March 23-27, 1913, although now nearly forgotten, was at the time the worst natural disaster to befall the United States, inundating parts of a dozen Midwestern states and setting records along the Mississippi River. Hardest hit in Illinois was the southern half of the state, and especially Cairo, where the Ohio River joins the Mississippi.

Fred W. Beuttler, US House of Representatives

**“Reestablishing the Party of Lincoln: Civil Rights and the New Midwestern Republicans of the 1960s”**

This paper focuses on the development of a distinctive political philosophy as a third wing of the Republican party, which was pro-civil rights, fiscally conservative, accepting of some New Deal programs, and internationalist in foreign policy. It will concentrate on three congressmen who moved into serious leadership in the Republican party in the 1960s: Bob Michel from Peoria, John B. Anderson of Rockford, and John Erlenborn from DuPage County. A focus on these three Illinois congressmen in the 1960s will illuminate the changes in the Republican party as they developed alternatives to the Goldwater and Rockefeller wings of the party.

Roger D. Billings Jr., Northern Kentucky University

**“Lincoln and the Illinois Railroads: A New Look”**

With the publication of the Lincoln Legal Papers it is possible to look deeper into Lincoln’s career as a railroad lawyer. Lincoln handled cases of first impression relating to contract, tort, tax, right-of-way, and stock subscription cases, and they can now be examined in greater detail.

Susan Easton Black, Brigham Young University

**“James Adams Pits the Opinion of Abraham Lincoln against Joseph Smith”**

This paper will introduce known facts of Adams’s life that pre-date his conflict with Lincoln; discuss Lincoln’s partisan political power fight with Adams; present reasons for Smith’s belief that Adams was a father figure; and analyze the arguments of Lincoln and Smith to determine the real character of James Adams.

Robert deVries Brunkow, Belleville

**“Boosting for Belleville: The Commercial Club and the Quest to Bring New Industry to Town, 1894-1924”**

Business and professional men who assumed responsibility for expanding the industrial base of their community organized the Belleville Commercial Club. Their initiatives to promote manufacturing included direct financial support to firms agreeing to move to Belleville. Results of their efforts were mixed and led to a schism as business leaders debated the efficacy of replacing an organization run by volunteers with one directed by a paid, professional manager.

Dennis H. Cremin, Lewis University

**“Chicago’s Grant Park during the Daley Era: 1955 to 1976”**

Chicago’s “front yard”—Grant Park—was transformed, beginning in 1955, by automobile and traffic concerns. Queen Elizabeth II visited the park, and it was the scene of civil rights marches.

Jerry Crimmins, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

**“The Women of Fort Dearborn”**

Nine women marched out of Fort Dearborn on the day of the Fort Dearborn Massacre. Two were killed; one died in captivity; six survived captivity to live on. This paper tells the stories of several of those women of Fort Dearborn.

Arlis Dittmer, Quincy

**“Louise Maertz as Seen Through Her Writings and Other Primary Sources”**

Louise Maertz was a Civil War nurse from Quincy. She also taught, traveled, owned a business, was a governess, wrote a study guide to English literature, proposed a study guide to the humanities, lived abroad, and was active in various local and national civic organizations. All of these activities belie the view of her peers that she was frail and often in a state of “complete prostration.” These contradictory ideas about her beg for new scholarship and pose questions about her nursing experiences, post-war activities, and the life of an educated, single, middle-class female in the nineteenth century.

Marc Dluger, Loyola University, Chicago

**“Joseph B. Greenhut: After the Civil War and His Commitment to the Regimental Community”**

As a member of the 82nd Illinois during the Civil War, Joseph B. Greenhut became a member of a “regimental community”—a community akin to ethnic neighborhoods in urban settings—and his actions after the war continued his commitment to the regimental community.

Theresa A. R. Embrey, Pritzker Military Library

**“General Abel Davis: Chicago’s Own Citizen Soldier”**

General Abel Davis was a citizen soldier from Chicago. General Davis’s business, political, social, and military pursuits were varied, ranging from Cook County Recorder and a term with the Illinois House of Representatives to social service initiatives. This paper examines in brief a lifetime of contributions by Davis.

Nancy Ann Flannery, Midwest Chapter, National New Deal Preservation Association

**“The Politics of Art: New Deal Murals and New Deal Personalities in Illinois”**

FDR poured money into art projects, having the foresight to realize that the U.S. needed to change using the American values of independence, creative thinking, and determination if it was to survive. His New Deal art projects resulted in a powerful surge of creativity and effort by the American artistic community, including the administrators of the Federal Art Project. The artists and FAP administrators of Illinois fulfilled the mission of the Federal Art Project, often mixing art with politics, controversy, and a colorful interpretation of New Deal policies that was uniquely Illinois.

Elyse D. Gerstenecker, Marine

**“The Schoolhouses of Madison County, Illinois”**

The paper discusses the history of education and schoolhouse construction, but more importantly, the effects of common school district reorganization during the early 1950s on multiple levels of community. Madison County serves as the subject for much of the paper, which also discusses the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of schoolhouses in Madison County.

Jeffrey W. Hancks and Jared W. Reed, Western Illinois University Archives

**“Waffles, Rolle Bolle, and Johnny Deere: Moline’s Belgian Community”**

Moline was once the largest Belgian community in the United States. This paper examines Belgian immigration to western Illinois and daily life in Moline during the period 1900 to 1930.

Robert E. Hartley, Westminster, CO

**“The Whistle Campaign Stopped Here: Harry S Truman and Illinois in 1948”**

Truman made three whistle-stop tours of Illinois enroute to winning the state by 30,000 votes and the presidency. Two were extended visits: a day-long motorcade through southern Illinois, and nearly a day in Springfield, when Illinois turned out to be a major battleground in the race between Truman and Thomas Dewey.

Gwen Ihnat, Chicago History Museum

**“The Golden Age of Radio in Chicago”**

In the 1930s and 1940s, Chicago stood at the geographical and creative center of the new medium of radio. The author examines the city’s preeminence in the radio revolution, including such signature Chicago-based programs as

Fibber McGee & Molly, Vic and Sade, and Lights Out, and discusses how radio helped bring the country together during the Depression and World War II, and how it eventually lost its dominance to television.

Cheryl Eichar Jett, Fairview Heights

**“Jett Prairie: A Virginia Family Settles in Bond County, Illinois”**

Between 1829 and 1853 nine Jett families emigrated from Virginia to Bond County, Illinois, and collectively acquired about 1,500 acres, leaving that area still known as “Jett Prairie.” The Jetts, like many Bond County settlers, were of English ancestry and had been Virginia planters, bringing with them Southern crops and lifestyle. The Jetts appear to have been typical Virginia transplants, as their lives became interwoven with the history of 1800s Bond County.

Jodi Lacy, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

**“Maude Bennot: Adventurer, Educator, and Scientist”**

Illinoisan Maude Bennot (1892-1982) directed the Adler Planetarium from 1937 to 1945, making her the first female head of a planetarium in the U.S. and possibly the world. Her life provides a lens through which to view twentieth-century women’s roles in museums and public education, as well as their participation in academic scientific research, especially astronomy.

Tim Lacy, Loyola University, Chicago

**“Mortimer J. Adler’s How to Read a Book: Intentions and Usage in Education, 1940s and 1970s”**

This paper traces the intent and usage of Adler’s *How to Read a Book*. Created out of frustration over curriculum reform at the University of Chicago, Adler took his plan for reading aimed at the Great Books (G.B.) to the general public. This resulted in the G. B. Foundation and Britannica’s Great Books set (1952). The second edition of Adler’s book (co-written with Charles Van Doren) was eventually used in higher-education settings.

Joyce M. Latham, Onondaga County Public Library, Syracuse, New York

**“‘Agents of Their Employers’: Carl Roden and the History of Intellectual Freedom in Chicago”**

Carl Roden, the director of the Chicago Public Library from 1918 to 1950, has been dismissed as an agent in the development of intellectual freedom in America. Yet, a strategy of vertical research reveals his active engagement in the development of the first intellectual freedom policy in America.

John Lloyd, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

**“A ‘Grand Army of Labor’: Albert Parsons, Joseph Medill, and Conflicting Visions of Free Labor in Chicago, 1865-1886”**

This paper explores the conflicting visions of free labor after the Civil War during the period of intense industrial conflict in Chicago. The paper views this conflict through the ideas of labor leader Albert Parsons and *Chicago Tribune* editor Joseph Medill, both of whom had been profoundly influenced by the Civil War.

Robert M. Lombardo, Loyola University, Chicago

**“The Italian White Hand Society in Chicago”**

The White Hand Society was organized by Italian immigrants to fight Black Hand extortion in Chicago. The White Hand worked with the police and prosecutors to ensure that Black Hand criminals were brought to justice. The White Hand also campaigned for the recruitment of Italian American police officers and worked tirelessly to ensure that Chicago newspapers accurately reported Black Hand crime.

Cheryl Lyon-Jenness, Western Michigan University

**“‘The One Great Thing We Think and Talk of’: The Civil War Letters of an Illinois Family”**

The author uses an unusual collection of letters written by the Kennicott family of northern Illinois to evaluate how one family responded to the Civil War, and how the war, in turn, influenced family life. As the letters indicate, some family members found opportunity and new experiences in wartime exigencies. For others, the war exacerbated economic hardship, generated anxiety, and hastened personal tragedy. For all members of this large and lively Illinois family, the war years brought unexpected changes, new perspectives, and radically reconfigured family interactions.

Kimberly Manning Perez, Petersburg

**“V. Y. Dallman: Springfield’s Progressive Muckraker”**

Over the course of his ninety-one-year life, V. Y. Dallman used his position as editor of the *Illinois State Register* to promote the idea of “active civic consciousness” in the city of Springfield. Working with public properties commissioner Willis J. Spaulding, *State Register* editor Henry Clendenin, Mayor John S. Schnepf, and others, he helped to crush the gambling syndicate, establish the election commission system, the commission form of government, and Lake Springfield with its publicly owned utility company, City Water Light and Power.

Keith L. Miller, Fairfield

**“Little Egypt’s ‘House of Nature’ along with its Mines and Mineral Wealth (Other Than Oil)”**

How does geology affect human affairs? The author examines Cave-in-Rock (the “House of Nature”), where river pirates lived, early salt production at the saline reserve, fluorspar mining, as well as coal and iron output.

James E. Mueller, University of North Texas

**“Little Bighorn Coverage in the Illinois Press”**

This paper examines Illinois newspaper coverage of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It compares Illinois coverage of the battle, which was one of the biggest news stories of the era, to that in other parts of the country. The paper sheds light on the development of the profession of journalism in terms of objectivity, fairness, and accuracy.

Timothy N. Pinnick, North Aurora

**“African Americans and the Grand Army of the Republic in Illinois”**

African American involvement in the GAR in Illinois was significant, as attested to in organization records and the media. Of particular interest is the all-black post, known as John Brown Post 50 in Chicago.

Von V. Pittman, Center for Distance & Independent Study, Columbia, MO

**“Beyond the ‘Crime of the Century’: Leopold, Loeb, and the Stateville Correspondence School”**

Sentenced to “life plus 99 years” for their murder of Bobby Franks, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb became involved in the education of inmates. They created the Stateville Correspondence School, which became a respected post-secondary institution within the Illinois penal system.

Jared W. Reed and Jeffrey W. Hancks, Western Illinois University Archives

**“Waffles, Rolle Bolle, and Johnny Deere: Moline’s Belgian Community”**

Moline was once the largest Belgian community in the United States. This paper examines Belgian immigration to western Illinois and daily life in Moline during the period 1900 to 1930.

Dennis A. Rendleman, University of Illinois at Springfield

**“The Prescience of John Peter Altgeld: How the Pardon of the Haymarket Defendants Predicted Modern Constitutional Law”**

Governor Altgeld’s pardon is written as a legal opinion—not a political document. The subsequent recognition of legal rights he propounded are commonly accepted today by American citizens accused of a crime.

Sarah Klimenko Riedl, Arlington, VA

**“The Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the Historical Education of the Civil War Generation”**

In the winter of 1860-1861, as Americans confronted the secession crisis and the possibility of civil war, they brought different understandings of their nation’s past to bear on the debate over its future. This paper will examine the competing interpretations of American history that Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas put forth in their canvass for U.S. Senate in 1858, and will explore the role that their historic debates played in the historical education of the Civil War generation.

Samuel J. Rogal, Illinois Valley Community College

**“Vachel Lindsay’s Chicago”**

The city of Chicago constitutes a key image within Vachel Lindsay’s vision of the American Midwest heartland. The city stands as an example of how Lindsay’s bardic energies and identification of place enhanced his poetry throughout his tragically short vagabond life.

Barbara Schock, Galesburg

**“The Mother Bickerdyke Monument at Galesburg, Illinois”**

Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke was living in Galesburg at the beginning of the Civil War. She volunteered to take medical supplies to the soldiers at Cairo, Illinois. With her medical and organizational abilities, she contributed to the care of the wounded throughout the war. The monument was erected in 1906.

Christian Schock, Galesburg

**“The Cricket Fields of Elgin”**

A number of English watchmakers emigrated to Elgin, Illinois, toward the end of the nineteenth century, seeking employment at the Elgin National Watch Company. They brought the sport of cricket from their native land. For a time, cricket was almost as popular as baseball in Elgin and Chicago.

Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, IHPA

**“‘None of us were able to give the place the personal attention it needed’: A Taylorville Family as Absentee Landlords”**

The Taylor family of Taylorville (not the family for whom the town is named) owned a plantation, “Bellagio,” on Lake Providence in Louisiana from the 1920s to the 1940s. This paper will discuss the numerous challenges the family experienced as absentee landlords.

Susan Schumm-Burgess, Buffalo Grove

**“The Plague of 1849”**

This paper will explore the effects of the cholera epidemic of 1849 and how it changed Chicago. People moved to the country, burial grounds were started, and sanitary conditions were finally improved.

Deborah Sting, Chicago

**“From Anarchist to Hero: Public Memory of John Peter Altgeld”**

Governor John Peter Altgeld faced hatred and ridicule for his pardon of the Haymarket “anarchists” in 1893, but only two decades later in 1915, Illinois citizens honored his actions through the erection of a large statue in Chicago. This paper examines how shifts in public opinion caused the people of Chicago to use public space to remember and memorialize Altgeld in a variety of ways.

Evie Terrono, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA

**“‘Growth in Culture and the Refinements of Civilized Life’: The Art Galleries of the 1863 and 1865 Sanitary Fairs in Chicago”**

This talk will examine the organization and significance of the art galleries at the Chicago Sanitary Fairs within the cultural experiences of the young city of Chicago, as well as the rhetoric and politics of the art works on view.

Mary Emma Thompson, Westfield

**“Depression Era (New Deal) Art Projects”**

The paper will present information about four New Deal art projects (Public Works of Art Project, Treasury Department Section of Painting and Sculpture, Treasury Relief Art Project, WPA Federal Art Project) with a focus on post office art. The author will identify time lines and discuss the regulations governing each project.

David W. Veenstra, University of Illinois at Chicago

**“Krebiozen: The Social Context for a Cancer Cure Tragedy”**

In March 1951, Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, Vice President of the University of Illinois in charge of the Chicago Professional Colleges and one of the most respected clinical scientists in the world, presented the results of his latest research, a cure for cancer called Krebiozen. Although the treatment later proved ineffective, the debate over the drug’s merits raged for years, leading to the firing of the president of the University of Illinois, Ivy’s demotion and early retirement, and public hearings in Washington, D.C. This paper places Krebiozen within a broad social context, arguing that public expectations of medicine in the mid-1950s encouraged and sustained the development of so-called miracle drugs such as Krebiozen. It also explains how Krebiozen influenced the development of the research and medical education programs at the U of I Medical Center.

Nancy J. Volkman, Texas A&M University

**“Suburban Paradise: The Romantic-style Suburbs of H. W. S. Cleveland”**

Paper will discuss the Cleveland designed Chicago-area residential suburbs and subdivisions in the period 1870 to 1890. These projects will be compared to his work elsewhere and to that of other designers and planners.

Jason Marcus Waak, University of Illinois at Chicago

**“Athletes and the Academy: UIC and the Development of an Urban Athletic Program”**

Intercollegiate athletics often serve as the most visible aspect of the university. This study will highlight how the athletics program at the University of Illinois at Chicago developed in conjunction with the growth and expansion of the U of I in Chicago from Navy Pier, to Circle Campus, to consolidation and UIC. The presentation provides both a historical overview as well as analysis of the efforts made to raise the level of awareness of the campus through athletics.

Mark Walczynski, Starved Rock Foundation

**“The Land of the Lost Frenchman: Evidence for Illinois’ First Land Grant”**

In April 1683 Robert La Salle gave Jacques Bourdon d’Autray a grant of land 126 linear-arperents-long along the Illinois River. This investigation focuses on the language in the deed, examines the geology and geography of the Starved Rock area, and uncovers physical evidence that determines the actual location of the land grant.

Carl J. Weber, DeVry University

**“The Marquette Autograph Map Hoax”**

The chronicle of the Marquette-Joliet expedition and the unquestioned primacy of Mississippi and Illinois River Valley discovery credited to the missionary and fur trader was once thought firmly founded on numerous primary source documents. Today, only one primary source is thought unimpeachably authentic by historians. However, recent observations seem to have breeched the defenses of this last remaining “primary source” document, the Marquette Autograph Map. It can no longer be sustained as authentic.

Cherié L. Weible, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**“The Spirit of Woman Power: The Women’s War Census of 1918”**

The Women’s War Census is an important record of the social history of Illinois women during World War I. The registration drive, which took place in April 1918, produced records of the occupational strengths of women in the workforce.

Dana E. Weiner, Northwestern University

**“Anti-Abolition Violence and Freedom of Speech in Illinois, 1835-1848”**

This paper explores local struggles for freedom of expression and human rights in antebellum Illinois. It begins with conflict over the right to make abolitionist arguments and publish them in newspapers, for freedom of speech and press in Illinois and across the Old Northwest functioned to hold together antislavery networks across great distances. There were several instances of press suppression, including a Peoria mobbing in 1843 that demonstrates how the commencement of antislavery organizing could lead to violent conflict over the legitimacy of public discussion of controversial ideas.

Zachary Wingerd, Arlington, TX

**“‘Wish I had stayed a soldiering’: An Illinois Soldier’s Post-Civil War Diary”**

Most diaries of Civil War soldiers end upon coming home; however, Thomas B. Robinson, who had served in the cavalry, continued to write about readjusting to home life in Illinois. Through this diary and Illinois state records a better understanding of how soldiers became citizens after the Civil War is revealed.

Amanda Winters, Tallula

**“Constant Surveillance: The Panopticon and Warden Ragen of Joliet”**

This paper examines the Panopticon architecture that was envisioned by Jeremy Bentham and applied in the Stateville Penitentiary in Joliet. This research looks at the theories behind the architecture (a design for prisons that allowed prisoners to be seen by unseen observers) and how they were applied by one administrator, Warden Joseph Ragen.

Kevin R. Young, Champaign

**“Where on the Vermilion? Croghan, Indian Villages, and Later Historians”**

A reappraisal of just where George Croghan crossed the Vermilion River and the location of the Piankeshaw village.